L Shultz (477)

18 January 1969

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MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL WHEELER

Subj: USS LIBERTY Claims

1. As a result of the attack on LIBERTY by Israeli Armed Forces on 8 June 1967, 34 personnel were killed and 167 injured. The ship suffered extensive damage. The Department of State has the responsibility to recoup the damages caused to the United States and also to submit claims in behalf of dependents of deceased and injured personnel.

2. State presented to Israel a claim in the amount of $3,323,500 for the dependents of the 34 deceased personnel. This amount was paid and the State Department has made distribution thereof. The amounts claimed in each case were computed by the State Department on the basis of relevant international and domestic decisions.

3. On 1 July 1968, State presented to Israel a claim for damage to LIBERTY in the amount of $7,644,146 (as determined by Navy). On 3 October 1968, Israel suggested to the State Department that this claim be discussed "when all remaining U. S. claims relating to the USS LIBERTY are ready."

4. Claims on behalf of the 167 personnel for injuries will be based on the nature and severity of the injury, pain and suffering, and lost earning capacity. Delay in preparation of these claims was caused by some serious cases in which th[illegible]py continued for over a year. The State Department expects to pr[illegible]t those claims to Israel shortly and estimates that they will total about $2,500,000.

5. In addition to the above, State will present to Israel claims for other indirect losses sustained by the United States. These are (a) costs incurred for medical treatment of the injured personnel, (b) value of the lost services (pay and allowances of the injured personnel, and (c) amounts paid on personnel claims for loss of or damage to personal property. These claims total about $144,000.

6. In addition to the $3,323,500 received for claims for death, the outstanding claims of the United States described above total approximately $9,788,000. After the attack, the Israeli Government assured the United States that it assumed responsibility for the error and was prepared to make amends.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY N C Wood DATE 04/26/82
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TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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CLASSIFIED

18 January 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL MOORER

Subj: USS LIBERTY Claims

1. Pursuant to your request, there is enclosed herewith a proposed draft CNO memorandum for CJCS on the status of United States claims against Israel arising out of the attack on the USS LIBERTY.

Very respectfully,

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